

During the first years of service, the house could only shelter seven victims but thanks to the continued support of the Phelps County Family Crisis Services organization the Russell House now has the capacity to provide shelter for 64 people at any given time. Over the past 20 years of service to the community the Russell House has sheltered more than 2,000 adults and 1,800 children. I applaud the hard working staff and supporters of the Russell House for their hearts of service and dedication to the families of Missouri. It is my pleasure to recognize their efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. NICHOLAS J.  
CONTORNO

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a published composer, arranger, educator, guest conductor, saxophone soloist and composer in residence. He was a highly successful and visible educator at all levels of school bands both as a conductor and clinician. On February 2, 2014 Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno passed away leaving his wife Lucille, two daughters, Camille and Gina, and a host of family and friends to remember his many accomplishments.

Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno retired in 2007 after 24 years as the Director of Bands and Orchestra at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was granted a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He began his teaching career in 1961 as an Instrumental Music teacher in the Glendale (WI) Public Schools and also served as Director of Bands at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. He served as Music Curriculum Supervisor and Director of Bands at Kettle Moraine High School in Wales, Wisconsin. Dr. Contorno's work with young musicians made him one of the most beloved composers for concert and jazz bands.

Dr. Contorno was an A.S.C.A.P. award winning composer and arranger. He is listed in "Leaders of Secondary Education" (1972), "World's Who's Who of Musicians" (1977), and "Encyclopedia of Band Composers" (1991). As an active professional musician, he performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Holiday on Ice Orchestra, Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and Les Elgart Orchestra. In addition, he performed with many national shows and artists, including "Annie," 42nd Street, Linda Ronstadt, Natalie Cole, Manhattan Transfer, Vic Damone, Johnny Mathis, Mel Torme, and Sonny & Cher, to mention a few. His many honors include the Hugo Anhalt Music Achievement Award (1973); National Band Association Outstanding Jazz Educator Award (1982); and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Music Alumni Achievement Award (1990).

Dr. Contorno also held memberships in numerous professional organizations, such as

the American Federation of Musicians—Local 8, ASBDA, the National Band Association, and the Wisconsin Bandmasters Association. He served on the board of directors of the Festival City Orchestra of Milwaukee and the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra. He was the musical coordinator of Festa Italiana-Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1982 to 1998, served as the Musical Director/Conductor of the First Brigade Civil War Band of Wisconsin from 1970–1982 and The Milwaukee Concert Band from 1996–2002. In addition, he served as guest conductor of the Goldman Band of New York and the "President's Own" United States Marine Band. Dr. Contorno has a music school named after him in Gonaïves, Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to a tribute to Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno. Dr. Contorno's contributions have greatly benefitted the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MIKE  
BREWER

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mike Brewer, who passed away at Hospice House in Sumterville, Florida, on January 4, 2014. Mr. Brewer was born on August 8, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois to Stanley and Patricia Brewer. He married his wife, Mary Eaton Brewer, on March 22, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Brewer, aged 60, was a devoted husband and a tradesman whose presence in the community will be deeply missed.

Mr. Brewer worked for the Building Trades in Orlando, Florida. He previously served as Business Agent for the Carpenters Local 1765 before helping to form the Carpenters Local 1820 in 1985. In the same year, he was elected Chairman of the Walt Disney World (WDW) Craft Maintenance Council, a position he would hold for twelve years. From 1987 until 2007, Mr. Brewer served as Executive Secretary and Treasurer for the Florida Council of Industrial and Public Employees. In 2008 he became a member of the Florida Council of Carpenters' Office of President. Most recently, Mr. Brewer was appointed to serve as the administrator of the AFL-CIO's collective bargaining proceedings with the Walt Disney Company.

Mr. Brewer devoted his career to his fellow tradesman and made it his life's work to better the lives of workers. He is survived by his wife Mary; daughter Sarah; stepson Robert Phan; his mother Patricia Brewer; his brother Tommy Brewer; and his sisters Janis Murphy, Susan Bane, and Debbie Cozart.

I am saddened by the loss of this valuable member of the Central Florida community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING RHONDA WHITE-  
WARNER

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Minister Rhonda White-Warner, a former minister and a social activist. Known throughout the Bay Area as a scholar, teacher, activist, preacher, and as a dedicated mother and grandmother, Minister White-Warner has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on January 15, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work and the inspiring role she played in many lives through her community activism and as a spiritual leader.

Born and raised in Oakland, Minister Rhonda White-Warner's passion for helping people began at a young age. After graduating from Oakland Technical High School in 1969, she received her Masters of Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, graduating with the highest GPA in her class and advancing to candidacy for a Doctor of Ministry degree at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Minister White-Warner graduated with honors and received the Jessie Drexler Award for outstanding competency in Biblical Studies.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner had a profound sense of dedication to helping the people in her community. As HIV/AIDS began to take its toll on the community, she knew it was important for faith based groups to step up and take action. She helped to establish the East Bay HIV Faith Collaborative. This collaborative is comprised of a group of HIV/AIDS advocates who educate and provide tools to African American Faith leaders. Aside from managing programs for HIV/AIDS, Minister White-Warner also worked to address domestic violence and mental health services.

Minister White-Warner also appreciated and promoted the arts. During the 1990s, she published a monthly magazine called Tibbets. This publication served to promote African American arts. Later, she became a founding member of the Oakland Ensemble Theatre in 1993, which established itself as the sole professional theater company in Oakland.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner has left a lasting imprint on our society and communities of faith. She was a charter member of the Womanist Symposium Project at the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. This project engages womanist theology within the context of Black women in the local church setting. Their mission is to energize African American women to live positively and productively, as well as to empower and liberate African American women in the context of biblical scripture.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and social activist, Minister Rhonda White-Warner. As an Oakland-native, Minister White-Warner's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Rhonda's loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

# HONORING THE PORTOPERA ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

## HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate PORTopera on its 20th anniversary season.

Since 1994, PORTopera has been the only company in the State of Maine performing fully staged operas with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. It has provided unduplicated opportunities to enjoy creative, inspiring opera that showcases excellence and brings the brightest stars and musical professionals to Maine.

PORTopera has generated critical acclaim from national publications, including its 2012 production of *Madama Butterfly* by Opera News and 2001's *Le Nozze di Figaro* by the Boston Globe. PORTopera has also been involved in educating upcoming generations who dream of performing in the theater through the opera-in-schools program with the University of Southern Maine and the Young Artists Program.

I am proud of PORTopera's commitment to developing and expanding the arts in Maine on many levels. The company has enriched Portland and the State of Maine culturally and has maintained a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence for two decades. Its work is critical to the quality of life we enjoy in our State.

As Maine's creative culture continues to develop and receive national attention, I am proud to recognize PORTopera for its leadership and success.

Bravo!

# HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TROY BOWLING

## HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Troy Bowling of Lexington, Kentucky. His military service during World War II and his continued commitment to supporting our veterans and the men and women in uniform is an inspiration to us all.

At age 19, Mr. Bowling began his service as a United States Marine and was a proud member of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division. During the United States' campaign to end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo Jima. While attempting to secure Mt. Suribachi, his unit came under intense and concentrated fire, completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him critically wounded on the battlefield. At that moment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens and committed to serving mankind for the rest of his life if he survived.

Miraculously, a combat photographer and medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety of a landing craft where he witnessed

the planting of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic image that persists as one of the most legendary and triumphant moments of the war. The U.S. Marines eventually took control of the island; however, this victory came at a heavy cost as over 6,800 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima.

In keeping faith with his commitment to God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling has since devoted over 73,000 hours of volunteer service to others at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For over 63 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization, holding nearly every position possible including State Commander.

The Bible teaches in Proverbs 21:21 that, "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Mr. Bowling has brought great honor upon himself through his dedication, determination, and love for serving the people of our community. Without a doubt, he has remained true to the commitment he made on the rocky terrain of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Bowling embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and commitment to serving others—never abandoning the Marine motto of *Semper Fidelis*, "Always Faithful." I would like to thank Mr. Bowling for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error on rollcall 38, my vote was inaccurately recorded as "yea." I have always been a vocal and firm supporter of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) waivers, which save taxpayer dollars and decrease red tape by allowing federal agencies to approve the use of federal public land for recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting without needless process and paperwork that has no benefit to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

I would like to state that my intended vote was "nay" for rollcall 38—On Agreeing to Amendment No. 6 by DEFAZIO of Oregon.

## HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" SINKIN

## HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William "Bill" Sinkin, a truly remarkable citizen of San Antonio. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Sinkin dedicated himself to improving and serving the city of San Antonio.

For almost 70 years, Mr. Sinkin dedicated his life to civic accomplishments and advocating for all citizens of San Antonio. He had a true passion for people, diversity, and innovation. Mr. Sinkin helped put San Antonio on the map as a tourist destination with his lead-

ership role in creating HemisFair, a celebration of San Antonio's 250th anniversary and the first world fair to be held in Texas. Mr. Sinkin had a first-hand role in the redevelopment of HemisFair Park which eventually led to the Institute of Texan cultures, the Convention Center, and the River Walk.

Mr. Sinkin was a groundbreaking chairman of the San Antonio Housing Authority where he added 2,500 new housing units to the city, promoted diversity and hired the organization's first female executive director. He co-founded the Goodwill Industries of San Antonio in 1946, and provided employment opportunities for those affected with mental and physical disabilities and founded the Urban Coalition of San Antonio to address issues affecting low income communities.

Mr. Sinkin was a civic leader and active voice for the community throughout his entire life. As a banker, he advocated for racial equality, minority hiring, and business development by increasing minority representation and small business lending. In the way he lived his life, in the relationships he cultivated, and in the community groups he belonged to and nurtured, Mr. Sinkin fostered greater understanding between people from different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Enduring relationships were created in the Jewish-Latino and Black-Jewish Dialogues which he was instrumental in starting.

As a pioneer and avid supporter of alternative energy, Mr. Sinkin worked to raise awareness about solar power. He founded Solar San Antonio in 1999, which promotes the use of solar electricity as a major source of power and launched Metropolitan Partnership for Energy which became Build San Antonio Green. Mr. Sinkin's efforts in alternative energy led to San Antonio being designated as a Solar America City.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Bill Sinkin. His extensive record of service and achievement has truly impacted many lives and our community.

## HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAN B. KIMBALL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in order to celebrate the service and accomplishments of Mr. Dan B. Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Parks. After 10 years, Dan will be retiring in March 2014.

During his tenure as superintendent, Dan consistently demonstrated his expertise and unwavering commitment to the preservation of our national parks. Upon his arrival in 2004, he was entrusted with managing the park's involvement in the restoration of the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. He and his team faced complex challenges with skill and resolve, making invaluable contributions to the ongoing defense of the Everglades and to the balance of Florida's ecosystem.

A 20-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Dan also served as the Chief